

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed November 9, 2004.

Statutory Subject Matter

The claims have been amended, where appropriate, to clarify that the respective amended claims are not merely an abstract idea that is not statutory subject matter.

Anticipation Rejection

All of the claims are rejected as being anticipated by Neilsen. Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the recitation in the claims. It is respectfully submitted that Neilsen is inapplicable, either under §102 or under §103.

Neilsen discloses a progress indicator generated on a computer display. The progress indicator is generated based on a JobEntry object defined by a JobEntry class. See Figure 6. The JobEntry class is a predefined characterization of the process whose progress indicator is generated on the computer display.

By contrast, taking claim 1 as an example, the generated "progress record" is self-defining of the progress of the execution process. The progress record is without reference to a characterization of the process outside the process record, such as the JobEntry class of the Neilsen disclosure. For example, referring to page 7 of Applicant's specification, the example progress record is self-contained. That is, it includes a definition of the process steps for which progress is being reported (as a result of processing the progress record), and no resort must be had to an external definition of the process steps (such as a class definition).

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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